

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 L-01 H-01 INR-05 PM-03
PRS-01 SP-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EB-04
TRSE-00 USIA-01 /052 W
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P 040830Z MAY 77
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7728
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0892

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, CH, US

SUBJ: FOREIGN TRADE OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON US-CHINA TRADE

1. DEPUTY DIVISION DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN TRADE SUN SUO-CHANG SAID AT USLO RECEPTION
MAY 3 THAT THE PROSPECTS FOR US-CHINA TRADE IN 1977
WERE GOOD. ASKED ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR US
WHEAT SALES TO CHINA, SUN SAID NEGOTIATIONS
WERE PRESENTLY UNDERWAY IN PEKING, BUT DIFFERENCES
CONCERNING PRICE AND TCK SMUT REMAIN TO BE SETTLED.
(COMMENT: A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL GRAIN FIRMS
ARE NOW IN PEKING. AGROFF REPORTING HIS
DISCUSSIONS WITH THESE COMPANIES BY SEPTEL).
SUN BRUSHED OFF QUESTIONS ABOUT PRC DEMAND FOR
WHEAT IMPORTS BY ASSERTING THAT SUCH PURCHASES
WERE LINKED TO PRC RICE SALES AND RESULTED
FROM THE RICE/WHEAT PRICE DIFFERENTIAL.

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2. SUN ALSO VOLUNTEERED THAT THE PRC WOULD
BE CONSIDERING THE PURCHASE OF WHOLE PLANTS
FROM THE US, ADDING THAT A US
FIRM WAS NOW IN PEKING DISCUSSING
THE SALE OF A WHOLE PLANT IN THE CHEMICAL SECTOR.

3. NEITHER SUN NOR OTHER MFT OFFICIALS AT THE RECEPTION MENTIONED MFN, THE PACE OF NORMALIZATION, OR ANY OTHER POLITICAL OR COMMERCIAL HINDRANCES TO INCREASED SINO-US TRADE, AN OMISSION ALMOST AS UNUSUAL AS SUN'S FORTHCOMING COMMENTS ON CURRENT COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY.

4. DISTRIBUTION OF THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN LIMITED DUE TO THE COMMERCIALLY SENSITIVE NATURE OF SUN'S COMMENTS ON PROSPECTIVE GRAIN SALES.

GATES

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Message Attributes

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